



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
GALVESTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P. O. BOX 1229
GALVESTON TX 77553-1229

December 22, 2003

Notice of Public Scoping Meeting
Wharton Interim Feasibility Study

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers encourages you to attend a public meeting on the Wharton Interim Feasibility Study. The Corps of Engineers will provide information about proposed projects in the Wharton area and ask for public comments on project planning and impacts.

Location: Wharton City Hall
120 E. Caney Street
Wharton, TX 77488

Date: January 22, 2004
Time: 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Purpose of the Public Meeting. Part of the federal process for determining the feasibility of a flood damage reduction project is to consider the public's views about the scope of the project and the potential issues and alternatives. This public scoping meeting for the Wharton Interim Feasibility Study will comply with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, Public Law 91-190, as amended.

Your participation is important. Specifically, we would like to hear your comments on:

- Alternatives available for reducing flood damages.
- Issues associated with structural modifications.
- Opportunities for habitat restoration, enhancement or protection.
- Effects of project alternatives on the environment.

Study Area. The study area is defined as the area within the floodplain of the Colorado River between the community of Glen Flora and a point sufficiently downstream of the city of Wharton to address any backwater concerns. This includes the entire city of Wharton and the areas subject to overflow from the Colorado River into Caney Creek, Baughman Slough and Peach Creek.

Purpose of the Wharton Interim Feasibility Study. The Corps of Engineers is studying alternatives for lessening the risk of flood damages in Wharton. The City of Wharton, Lower Colorado River Authority and Texas Water Development Board are non-Federal sponsors of the Wharton study. The Wharton study is one of several interim studies from the larger Lower Colorado River Basin Feasibility Study, which is looking at flood protection, ecosystem restoration and recreation throughout the lower Colorado River basin. The other interim studies focus on the areas of Onion Creek, the Highland Lakes, Shoal Creek and Walnut Creek.

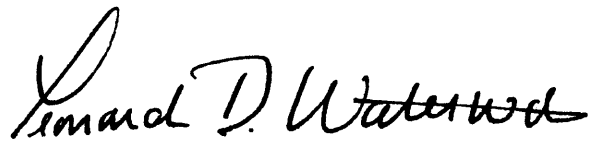
The Wharton Interim Feasibility Study will evaluate and compare flood damage reduction alternatives, potentially combining them with ecosystem restoration and recreation alternatives.

Flood damage reduction alternatives may include structural and non-structural measures such as channel diversions, levees, floodplain buyouts and ecosystem restoration.

Study Process. In general, the study process has two phases. The Corps of Engineers determined in the reconnaissance phase, completed in 1999, that there was Federal interest in pursuing further studies in Wharton. In the current feasibility phase, the Corps of Engineers performs detailed engineering, economic and environmental studies with the goal of finding the most cost-effective solution that responds to the problem while protecting the nation's environment. The product will be a report and recommendation to Congress on the possibility of a cost-effective solution.

Statutory Authority. The Corps of Engineers is pursuing the Lower Colorado River Basin Feasibility Study under the authority of the Flood Control Act of 1936; the Resolution by the Committee on Commerce, United States Senate, adopted in 1936; the River and Harbor Act of 1937; the River and Harbor Act of 1945; and the Resolution by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, United States House of Representatives, adopted in 1998.

Comments and Suggestions. In addition to providing input at the meeting, you may also send comments and suggestions directly to Mr. Shane Hunt, CESWG-PE-PR, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Galveston District, P.O. Box 1229, Galveston, TX 77553. You also may contact him at (409) 766-6390 or by e-mail at shane.d.hunt@swg02.usace.army.mil.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Leonard D. Waterworth". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Leonard" and last name "Waterworth" clearly legible.

Leonard D. Waterworth
Colonel, Corps of Engineers
District Engineer